

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-2575

**FY 2013 APPLICATION PACKAGE FOR NEW GRANTS**  
UNDER  
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION  
RESEARCH

**DISABILITY REHABILITATION RESEARCH PROJECTS (DRRP)**

Inclusive Cloud and Web Computing

**CFDA NUMBER: 84.133A-1**

FORM APPROVED



OMB No. 1820-0027, EXP. DATE 03/31/2016  
SF FORM 424, 01/31/2013

**DATED MATERIAL - OPEN IMMEDIATELY**  
**CLOSING DATE: July 8, 2013**

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**SECTION A**

**DEAR APPLICANT LETTER**

May 7, 2013

Dear Applicant:

The Secretary invites applications for a new award in fiscal year (FY) 2013 under the priority for a Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project – Inclusive Cloud and Web Computing (CFDA Number - 84.133A-1). NIDRR is seeking applications that address all elements of the priority and that propose appropriate, high-quality research and development methodologies. It is critical that proposals describe expected public benefits, especially benefits for individuals with disabilities, and propose projects that are designed to demonstrate outcomes that are consistent with the proposed goals.

The purpose of the DRRP program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The start date for new awards for the (FY) 2013 programs will be no later than October 1, 2013

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURES

This application package contains information and the required forms for potential applicants to apply and be considered for a FY 2013 grant award under this competition, including the published Federal Register notice dated May 7, 2013. The background statement from the Notice of Proposed Priorities is in Section D.

The closing date (application deadline) is July 8, 2013.

Potential applicants are advised to read the materials in this application package carefully. Please pay particular attention to the information contained in the Notice Inviting Applications on the eligible applicants and the dollar amount available for this competition, Section F – the Selection Criteria, Section G – Protection of Human Subjects, and Section H – Application Format and Instructions. Applications must be responsive to the absolute priority in Section C and the statutory, regulatory, and general requirements for the DRRP program in Section E. The application narrative should be written in the order of the selection criteria in Section F. The selection criteria will be used by the reviewers to evaluate the application.

**Include a one-page abstract.** The abstract is a critical component of the proposal, and it should describe the purpose, target population to be served during the project period, planned goals and objectives, proposed methodological approach, and anticipated project outcomes.

AWARD AMOUNTS, REQUIRED COST SHARE and AWARD AMOUNTS, REQUIRED COST SHARE, AND INDIRECT COST RATE

We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding the amount of \$750,000 for a single budget period of 12 months for the DRRP on Inclusive Cloud and Web Computing (CFDA Number - 84.133A-1). A minimum cost share of up to 1% is required and can be negotiated at the time of the grant award if not included in the application. Cost share can be a reduced indirect cost rate, donated FTE, donated space, and/or donated equipment. The indirect cost rate is your institution's federally negotiated rate.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

You **must** submit your application electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site. See Section B, Notice Inviting Applications and Section J, Application Transmittal Instructions.

**NOTE:** You will be uploading sections of your application by heading. There is a heading for: (1) Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424); (2) Table of Contents; (3) Abstract; (4) ED Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (ED-524); (5) Budget Narrative; (6) Project Narrative; (7) General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Requirements – Section 427; (8) GG Lobbying Form (90-0013); (9) ED Supplemental Form for SF 424; (10) SF LLL Disclosure of Lobbying; and (11) Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support. There is a file size limitation to each section, and you may upload only one document under each heading. Therefore, in order to make sure that all of your materials are uploaded successfully, you will need to combine multiple original documents for a heading (e.g., letters, resumes) into a single document before uploading.

**Electronic copies must be fully uploaded on the Grants.gov site by 4:30:00 pm, Washington DC time on the closing date, July 8, 2013. This process may take several hours. Therefore, please allow several hours or a full day to submit your application.** If there is a submission error, additional time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit. **We encourage you to read Section J – Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants.**

## PROGRAM REGULATIONS

These grants are subject to the requirements of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97, which set forth general rules affecting the submittal, review, grant award, and post-award administration for Department of Education grant programs.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Pre-Application Meeting: A pre-application meeting will be held between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on **May 28, 2013** by teleconference. Interested parties are invited to participate in the pre-application meeting to discuss the funding priority and to receive information and technical assistance. You must contact Marlene Spencer at marlene.spencer@ed.gov by **May 27, 2013** in order to participate in this meeting. NIDRR staff also will be available to provide information and technical assistance via individual phone consultations from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on **May 28, 2013**. Requests for individual consultations during this one-hour window must be made in advance to Marlene Spencer

If you have any questions about the information in this application package, please contact Marlene Spencer at marlene.spencer@ed.gov or by telephone at (202) 245-7532. Individuals who use a telecommunications device (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday.

If you experience problems submitting your application through Grants.gov, please contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726.

Thank you for your interest in this program.

Sincerely,

K. Charlie Lakin  
Director,  
National Institute on Disability and  
Rehabilitation Research

## **SECTION B**

### **NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW AWARDS**

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Applications for New Awards; National Institute on Disability  
and Rehabilitation Research--Disability and Rehabilitation

Research Projects--Inclusive Cloud and Web Computing

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative  
Services, Department of Education

ACTION: Notice.

Overview Information:

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research  
(NIDRR)--Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects  
(DRRPs)--Inclusive Cloud and Web Computing

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY)  
2013.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.133A-  
1.

Dates:

Applications Available: May 7, 2013.

Date of Pre-Application Meeting: May 28, 2013.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 8, 2013.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Disability and  
Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan  
and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and  
related activities, including international activities, to



develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act).

#### Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

The purpose of NIDRR's DRRPs, which are funded through the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act, by developing methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies that advance a wide range of independent living and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities. DRRPs carry out one or more of the following types of activities, as specified and defined in 34 CFR 350.13 through 350.19: research, training, demonstration, development, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance.

An applicant for assistance under this program must demonstrate in its application how it will address, in whole or in part, the needs of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds (34 CFR 350.40(a)). The approaches an applicant may take to meet this requirement are found in 34 CFR 350.40(b). Additional information on DRRPs can be found at: <http://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#DRRP>.

Priorities: Priority 1--DRRP on Inclusive Cloud and Web Computing--is from the notice of final priority for this program, published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

Priority 2--General Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Requirements--is from the notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472).

Absolute Priorities: For FY 2013 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applicants from this competition, these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet these priorities.

These priorities are:

Priority 1--DRRP on Inclusive Cloud and Web Computing.

Note: The full text of this priority is included in the notice of final priority published in this issue of the Federal Register and in the application package for this competition.

Priority 2--General Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Requirements.

Note: The full text of this priority is included in the notice of final priority published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472) and in the application package for this competition.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(g) and 764(a).

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 86, and 97. (b) The Education Department suspension and debarment regulations in 2 CFR part 3485. (c) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 350. (d) The notice of final priorities published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472). (e) The notice of final priority published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education (IHEs) only.

## II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: \$750,000.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$750,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

## III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants: States; public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies; public or private

organizations, including for-profit organizations; IHEs; and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: Cost sharing is required by 34 CFR 350.62(a) and will be negotiated at the time of the grant award.

#### IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package: You can obtain an application package via the Internet or from the Education Publications Center (ED Pubs). To obtain a copy via the Internet, use the following address:

[www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html). To obtain a copy from ED Pubs, write, fax, or call the following: ED Pubs, U.S. Department of Education, P.O. Box 22207, Alexandria, VA 22304. Telephone, toll free: 1-877-433-7827. FAX: (703) 605-6794. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call, toll free: 1-877-576-7734.

You can contact ED Pubs at its Web site, also: [www.EDPubs.gov](http://www.EDPubs.gov) or at its email address: [edpubs@inet.ed.gov](mailto:edpubs@inet.ed.gov).

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this program as follows: CFDA number 84.133A-1.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) by contacting the person or team listed under Accessible Format in section VIII of this notice.

## 2. Content and Form of Application Submission:

Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this competition.

**Page Limit:** The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 100 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.
- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).
- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial. An application submitted in any other font (including Times Roman or Arial Narrow) will not be accepted.

The recommended page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; Part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, the page

limit does apply to all of the application narrative section (Part III).

An applicant should consult NIDRR's Long-Range Plan for Fiscal Years 2013-2017 (78 FR 20299) (Plan) when preparing its application. The Plan can be accessed on the Internet at the following site:

[www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ose/nidrr/policy.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ose/nidrr/policy.html). 3.

Submission Dates and Times:

Applications Available: May 7, 2013.

Date of Pre-Application Meeting: Interested parties are invited to participate in a pre-application meeting and to receive information and technical assistance through individual consultation with NIDRR staff. The pre-application meeting will be held on May 28, 2013. Interested parties may participate in this meeting by conference call with NIDRR staff from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., Washington, DC time. NIDRR staff also will be available from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the same day, by telephone, to provide information and technical assistance through individual consultation. For further information or to make arrangements to participate in the meeting via conference call or for an individual consultation, contact Marlene Spencer as follows:

Marlene Spencer, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Potomac Center Plaza (PCP), room 5133, Washington,

DC 20202-2700. Telephone: (202) 245-7532 or by email:  
marlene.spencer@ed.gov.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 8, 2013.

Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov). For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to section IV. 7. Other Submission Requirements of this notice.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Individuals with disabilities who need an accommodation or auxiliary aid in connection with the application process should contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII of this notice. If the Department provides an accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability in connection with the application process, the individual's application remains subject to all other requirements and limitations in this notice.

4. Intergovernmental Review: This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

5. Funding Restrictions: We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

6. Data Universal Numbering System Number, Taxpayer Identification Number, Central Contractor Registry, and System for Award Management: To do business with the Department of Education, you must--

- a. Have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN);
- b. Register both your DUNS number and TIN with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR)--and, after July 24, 2012, with the System for Award Management (SAM), the Government's primary registrant database;
- c. Provide your DUNS number and TIN on your application; and
- d. Maintain an active CCR or SAM registration with current information while your application is under review by the Department and, if you are awarded a grant, during the project period.

You can obtain a DUNS number from Dun and Bradstreet. A DUNS number can be created within one business day.

If you are a corporate entity, agency, institution, or organization, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service. If you are an individual, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service or the Social Security Administration. If you need a new TIN, please allow 2-5 weeks for your TIN to become active.

The CCR or SAM registration process may take five or more business days to complete. If you are currently registered with



the CCR, you may not need to make any changes. However, please make certain that the TIN associated with your DUNS number is correct. Also note that you will need to update your registration annually. This may take three or more business days to complete. Information about SAM is available at SAM.gov.

In addition, if you are submitting your application via Grants.gov, you must (1) be designated by your organization as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR); and (2) register yourself with Grants.gov as an AOR. Details on these steps are outlined at the following Grants.gov Web page: [www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp).

7. Other Submission Requirements: Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

a. Electronic Submission of Applications.

Applications for grants under the DRRP program, CFDA Number 84.133A-1, must be submitted electronically using the Governmentwide Grants.gov Apply site at [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov). Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not email an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you

qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement.

You may access the electronic grant application for this program at [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov). You must search for the downloadable application package for this program by the CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number's alpha suffix in your search (e.g., search for 84.133, not 84.133A).

Please note the following:

- When you enter the Grants.gov site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation.
- Applications received by Grants.gov are date and time stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted and must be date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system no later than 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. Except as otherwise noted in this section, we will not accept your application if it is received--that is, date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system--after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements. When we retrieve your application from

Grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.

- The amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors, including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the submission process through Grants.gov.

- You should review and follow the Education Submission Procedures for submitting an application through Grants.gov that are included in the application package for this program to ensure that you submit your application in a timely manner to the Grants.gov system. You can also find the Education Submission Procedures pertaining to Grants.gov under News and Events on the Department's G5 system homepage at [www.G5.gov](http://www.G5.gov).

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format.

- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information you typically provide on the following forms: the Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424), the Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, Budget

Information--Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- You must upload any narrative sections and all other attachments to your application as files in a PDF (Portable Document) read-only, non-modifiable format. Do not upload an interactive or fillable PDF file. If you upload a file type other than a read-only, non-modifiable PDF or submit a password-protected file, we will not review that material. Additional, detailed information on how to attach files is in the application instructions.

- Your electronic application must comply with any page-limit requirements described in this notice.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive from Grants.gov an automatic notification of receipt that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. (This notification indicates receipt by Grants.gov only, not receipt by the Department.) The Department then will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send a second notification to you by email. This second notification indicates that the Department has received your application and has assigned your application a PR/Award number (a Department-specified identifying number unique to your application).

- We may request that you provide us original signatures on forms at a later date.

Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of Technical Issues with the Grants.gov System: If you are experiencing problems

submitting your application through Grants.gov, please contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726. You must obtain a Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number and must keep a record of it.

If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, we will grant you an extension until 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically or by hand delivery. You also may mail your application by following the mailing instructions described elsewhere in this notice.

If you submit an application after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date, please contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII of this notice and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number. We will accept your application if we can confirm that a technical problem occurred with the Grants.gov system and that that problem affected your ability to submit your application by 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. The Department will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

Note: The extensions to which we refer in this section apply only to the unavailability of, or technical problems with, the

Grants.gov system. We will not grant you an extension if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the application deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement: You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through the Grants.gov system because--

- You do not have access to the Internet; or
- You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to the Grants.gov system;

and

- No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevents you from using the Internet to submit your application.

If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: Marlene Spencer, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5133, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2700. FAX: (202) 245-7323.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

b. Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier) your application to the Department. You must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education  
Application Control Center  
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-1)  
LBJ Basement Level 1  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20202-4260  
You must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the

following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

(1) A private metered postmark.

(2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education  
Application Control Center  
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-1)  
550 12th Street, SW.  
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza  
Washington, DC 20202-4260  
The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--



(1) You must indicate on the envelope and--if not provided by the Department--in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the program under which you are submitting your application; and

(2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

#### V. Application Review Information

1. Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 350.54 and are listed in the application package.

2. Review and Selection Process: We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant competition, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217(d)(3), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant's use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Secretary may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the Secretary also requires various assurances including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal

financial assistance from the Department of Education (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

3. Special Conditions: Under 34 CFR 74.14 and 80.12, the Secretary may impose special conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 34 CFR parts 74 or 80, as applicable; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

## VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices: If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN); or we may send you an email containing a link to access an electronic version of your GAN. We may notify you informally, also.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements: We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. Reporting: (a) If you apply for a grant under this competition, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the competition. This does not apply if you have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b).

(b) At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to [www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html](http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html).

4. Performance Measures: To evaluate the overall success of its research program, NIDRR assesses the quality of its funded projects through a review of grantee performance and products. Each year, NIDRR examines a portion of its grantees to determine:

- The number of products (e.g., new or improved tools, methods, discoveries, standards, interventions, programs, or devices developed or tested with NIDRR funding) that have been judged by expert panels to be of high quality and to advance the field.

- The average number of publications per award based on NIDRR-funded research and development activities in refereed journals.

- The percentage of new NIDRR grants that assess the effectiveness of interventions, programs, and devices using rigorous methods.

NIDRR uses information submitted by grantees as part of their Annual Performance Reports (APRs) for these reviews.

Department of Education program performance reports, which include information on NIDRR programs, are available on the Department's Web site:

[www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opepd/sas/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opepd/sas/index.html).

5. Continuation Awards: In making a continuation award, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.253, the extent to which a grantee has made "substantial progress toward meeting the objectives in its approved application." This consideration includes the review of a grantee's progress in meeting the targets and projected outcomes in its approved application, and whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget. In making a continuation grant, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

## VII. Agency Contact

For Further Information Contact: Marlene Spencer, U.S.

Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5133,  
PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2700. Telephone: (202) 245-7532 or  
by email: [marlene.spencer@ed.gov](mailto:marlene.spencer@ed.gov).

If you use a TDD or a TTY call the Federal Relay Service  
(FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

## VIII. Other Information

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain  
this document and a copy of the application package in an  
accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or  
compact disc) by contacting the Grants and Contracts Services  
Team, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW.,  
room 5075, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2550. Telephone: (202)  
245-7363. If you use a TDD or a TTY call the FRS, toll-free, at  
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Dated:

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Michael K. Yudin,  
Delegated the authority  
to perform the functions  
and duties of the Assistant  
Secretary for Special  
Education and Rehabilitative Services.

## **SECTION C**

**NOTICE OF FINAL PRIORITY  
PUBLISHED: (May 7, 2013)**

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Chapter III

CFDA Number: 84.133A-1

Final priority. National Institute on Disability and  
Rehabilitation Research--Disability and Rehabilitation Research  
Projects--Inclusive Cloud and Web Computing

[CFDA Number: 84.133A-1]

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative  
Services, Department of Education.

ACTION: Final priority.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and  
Rehabilitative Services announces a priority under the  
Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program  
administered by the National Institute on Disability and  
Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). Specifically, this notice  
announces a priority for a Disability Rehabilitation Research  
Project (DRRP) on inclusive cloud and Web computing. The  
Assistant Secretary may use this priority for a competition in  
fiscal year (FY) 2013 and later years. We take this action to  
focus research attention on areas of national need. We intend  
this priority to improve outcomes for individuals with  
disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This priority is effective June 6, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marlene Spencer, U.S.

Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5133,



Potomac Center Plaza (PCP), Washington, DC 20202-2700.

Telephone: (202) 245-7532 or by email: marlene.spencer@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities, to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act).

#### Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

The purpose of NIDRR's DRRPs, which are funded through the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act, by developing methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies that advance a wide range of independent living and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities. DRRPs carry out one or more of the following

types of activities, as specified and defined in 34 CFR 350.13 through 350.19: research, training, demonstration, development, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance.

An applicant for assistance under this program must demonstrate in its application how it will address, in whole or in part, the needs of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds (34 CFR 350.40(a)). The approaches an applicant may take to meet this requirement are found in 34 CFR 350.40(b).

Additional information on the DRRP program can be found at: <http://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#DRRP>.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(g) and 764(a).

Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR part 350.

We published a notice of proposed priority for this program in the Federal Register on January 15, 2013 (78 FR 2919). That notice contained background information and our reasons for proposing the particular priority.

There are differences between the notice of proposed priority and this notice of final priority as discussed in the Analysis of Comments and Changes section in this notice. In addition, we inadvertently stated in the Summary section of the notice of proposed priority, that we intend this priority to contribute to improved employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. NIDRR did not intend to convey that this priority is focused exclusively on employment outcomes for individuals

with disabilities. We have corrected the summary statement in this notice.

Public Comment: In response to our invitation in the notice of proposed priority, four parties submitted comments.

Generally, we do not address technical and other minor changes, or suggested changes the law does not authorize us to make under the applicable statutory authority. In addition, we do not address general comments that raised concerns not directly related to the proposed priority.

Analysis of Comments and Changes: An analysis of the comments and of any changes in the priority since publication of the notice of proposed priority follows.

Comment: One commenter suggested the priority address natural language processing and ways to determine how to make Web content and interactions easier to understand for individuals with mental disabilities. Specifically, the commenter suggested research on: ways to assess perceptions of individuals with mental disabilities, the effects of technology across multiple life contexts, and understandable cloud and Web computing languages.

Discussion: Determining how to make Web content and interactions easier to understand for individuals with mental disabilities is consistent with the proposed priority, which requires the DRRP to contribute to the development of an inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure that incorporates options for disability access within its general structure. Nothing in

the priority would preclude an applicant from proposing research in this area. However, NIDRR does not wish to further specify the research and development areas or target populations, because we do not want to limit the number and breadth of applications submitted under this priority. The peer review process will determine the merits of each proposal.

Change: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested the priority require the inclusion of individuals with disabilities on the teams that develop the cloud and Web technologies contemplated by the priority. In this context, the commenter also suggested that the proposed teams address authentication technology, such as easy-to-understand processes for logging onto the Web.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that it is important for its grantees to include individuals with disabilities in research and development plans and activities. The General Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects Requirements priority (71 FR 25472), which we apply to all DRRP competitions, requires that DRPPs "involve individuals with disabilities in planning and implementing the DRPP's research, training, and dissemination activities, and in evaluating its work." This requirement allows all applicants the flexibility to propose how they will include individuals with disabilities in their activities.

The specific research and development topic suggested by the commenter--authentication technology--is consistent with the proposed priority, which requires the DRRP to contribute to the

development of an inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure that incorporates options for disability access within its general structure. The peer review process will determine the merits of each proposal.

Change: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the priority address the creation of inclusive, cross-platform, Web-based applications that can be modified easily in response to user accessibility issues, as well as the development of tools to support testing user interfaces in leisure contexts.

Discussion: The topics suggested by the commenter are generally consistent with the priority. The priority requires the DRRP to contribute to the development of an inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure that incorporates options for disability access within its general structure, which would include modifiable options. Further, nothing in the priority would preclude an applicant from proposing research on user interfaces related to engagement in leisure activities. The peer review process will determine the merits of each proposal.

Change: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the priority address information management topics, including how to manage user profiles and accessibility options over time, as technology evolves. The commenter noted that research on information management by individuals with disabilities and those in their support circles is needed to determine how technology use may

influence an individual's sense of time management, competence, and connectedness to others.

Discussion: The topics suggested by the commenter are consistent with the proposed priority, which requires the DRRP to contribute to the development of an inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure that incorporates options for disability access within its general structure. Nothing in the priority would preclude an applicant from proposing research in these areas. However, NIDRR does not wish to further specify the research requirements in the way suggested by the commenter because we do not want to limit the number and breadth of applications submitted under this priority. The peer review process will determine the merits of each proposal.

Change: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the priority address the social impact of individuals with disabilities sharing Web accessibility experiences and approaches. The commenter also suggested that the priority address research on the relationship between inclusive cloud and Web design and self-determination.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that the social impact of cloud and Web technology is important, particularly as it affects participation and social networks. The topics suggested by the commenter may be consistent with the priority if they are framed to meet the purpose of the priority, which is to contribute to the development of an inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure that incorporates options for disability access within its

general structure. This includes identifying, designing, prototyping, and assessing promising methods and systems for a cloud and Web infrastructure that addresses the needs of individuals with disabilities. For example, Table 1 of the priority includes a suggested research question, "How to enable individuals with disabilities to share accessibility experiences and approaches."

Change: None.

Comment: Three commenters stated that the needs of individuals with disabilities cannot be addressed with a sole focus on technology and that one of the primary factors limiting technology utilization for individuals with disabilities is the high poverty rate experienced by this population. The commenters noted the prohibitive costs of assistive technology required to use the Internet. The commenters recommended that the proposed priority be revised to include a focus on the relationship between poverty and disability.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that poverty affects technology and Web utilization by individuals with disabilities, in part because individuals with disabilities currently are required to purchase separate accessibility software and assistive devices for each device they use to access the Web. However, the DRRP on inclusive cloud and Web computing is designed specifically to contribute to the development of an inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure that incorporates options for disability access within its general structure. A more inclusive infrastructure

may reduce the need for individuals with disabilities to purchase separate equipment and thereby reduce the economic burden of Web use by individuals with disabilities.

Nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from proposing research questions specific to poverty, as long as the research questions are framed to meet the purpose and requirements of the priority. However, NIDRR does not wish to further specify the research requirements in the way suggested by the commenter because we do not want to limit the number and breadth of applications submitted under this priority. The peer review process will determine the merits of each proposal.

Change: None.

Comment: Three commenters stated that the proposed priority focuses on the development of technologies and products solely for the benefit of individuals with disabilities and recommended a change to make the final priority more focused on the development of universally designed products.

Discussion: For purposes of this priority, NIDRR uses the term “inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure” to mean the same thing as a “universally designed” cloud and Web infrastructure. An inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure is one that is accessible to a wide range of individuals, including individuals with disabilities. Contributions to the development of an inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure may reduce the need for specialized adaptations or the purchase of assistive technology equipment.



NIDRR would also like to note that the purpose of the DRRP is not to develop technologies and products, as suggested by the commenter, but to develop methods of, systems for, and technical approaches to developing an inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure. The proposed priority requires the DRRP to “identify, design, prototype, and assess promising methods and systems for, and technical approaches to designing, a cloud and Web infrastructure that addresses the needs of individuals with disabilities.” If the grantee under this priority is successful in contributing to the development of a more universally-designed and inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure, there is likely to be a stronger foundation for the further development of universally designed products for widespread use, as suggested by the commenter.

Change: None.

Comment: Three commenters recommended that the final priority require research that is related to the employment of individuals with disabilities. The commenters also noted that none of the research questions included in Table 1 of the proposed priority addresses employment.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that employment is a critical outcome for the population of individuals with disabilities. We have developed this priority because we believe that a more inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure is likely to contribute to improved employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. With a more inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure, for example,

individuals with disabilities are likely to have more direct access to the Web without the need for additional assistive technologies, thereby creating opportunities to search and apply for jobs and engage in work online.

The priority requires applicants to address at least one of the research questions in Table 1 but also allows applicants to focus on additional research questions not reflected in Table 1. If applicants choose to focus on additional research questions, such as those related to employment, they must explain how work on the additional question or questions will advance disability access in cloud and Web infrastructure design.

In sum, nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from proposing research related to employment, as long as the research questions are framed to meet the requirements of the priority. However, NIDRR does not wish to further specify the research requirements in the way suggested by the commenters because we do not want to limit the number and breadth of applications submitted under this priority. The peer review process will determine the merits of each proposal.

Change: None.

Comment: None.

Discussion: In the proposed priority, Table 1 is located in the background section, which will not be published as part of this notice of final priority. Because the contents of Table 1 are integral to the priority and its requirements, we are including it in the priority.

Change: NIDRR has included the text of Table 1 in the text of the final priority.

FINAL PRIORITY:

DRRP on Inclusive Cloud and Web Computing.

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for a Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) on inclusive cloud and Web computing. The DRRP must contribute to the development of an inclusive cloud and Web infrastructure that incorporates options for disability access within its general structure.

To contribute to this initiative, the DRRP must--

(1) Identify, design, prototype, and assess promising methods and systems for, and technical approaches to designing, a cloud and Web infrastructure that addresses the needs of individuals with disabilities. The DRRP must address at least one of the research questions outlined in Table 1. Applicants may also choose to address additional research questions not reflected in Table 1. In that case, the application must fully explain how work on the additional topic or topics proposed by the applicant will advance disability access in cloud and Web infrastructure design.

(2) Conduct knowledge translation activities (e.g., training, technical assistance, dissemination, collaboration) in order to facilitate use of the research results by key stakeholders (e.g., individuals with disabilities, computer scientists, other researchers and software developers working on

accessibility technology, policy makers, international partners).

(3) Demonstrate meaningful involvement by key stakeholder groups (e.g., individuals with disabilities, computer scientists, software developers and researchers working on accessibility technology, policy makers, international partners) in order to maximize the relevance and usability of the research conducted under this priority. Involvement may include, but is not limited to, participation in a multidisciplinary research team, advisory board, focus group, or other participatory action research method.

Table 1. Research Questions of Importance in Developing Inclusive Cloud and Web Computing Infrastructure

<b>Research Questions</b>	<b>Possible Computer Science Approaches</b>
How to make content and interactions easier to understand for individuals with mental disabilities.	Natural language processing.
How to make it easier for individuals with disabilities to log on to the Web.	Authentication technology.
How to change the presentation of information on Web pages to respond to difficulties encountered by individuals with disabilities.	Adaptive user interfaces.
How to manage user profiles and accessibility options over time, as technology evolves.	Federated information management.
How to make software more easily modifiable to meet individual needs.	Software architecture.
How to improve the ability of software tools to identify accessibility problems in	Automated user interface testing.

documents.	
How to enable individuals with disabilities to share accessibility experiences and approaches.	Social computing.
How to incorporate specific accessibility features (e.g., closed captioning, volume control, video description, screen reader technology, accessible user interfaces) into an inclusive Web infrastructure.	Software design.

### Types of Priorities:

When inviting applications for a competition using one or more priorities, we designate the type of each priority as absolute, competitive preference, or invitational through a notice in the Federal Register. The effect of each type of priority follows:

Absolute priority: Under an absolute priority, we consider only applications that meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(3)).

Competitive preference priority: Under a competitive preference priority, we give competitive preference to an application by (1) awarding additional points, depending on the extent to which the application meets the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i)); or (2) selecting an application that meets the priority over an application of comparable merit that does not meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(ii)).

Invitational priority: Under an invitational priority, we are particularly interested in applications that meet the priority. However, we do not give an application that meets the

priority a preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

This notice does not preclude us from proposing additional priorities, requirements, definitions, or selection criteria, subject to meeting applicable rulemaking requirements.

Note: This notice does not solicit applications. In any year in which we choose to use this priority, we invite applications through a notice in the Federal Register.

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

Regulatory Impact Analysis

Under Executive Order 12866, the Secretary must determine whether this regulatory action is "significant" and, therefore, subject to the requirements of the Executive order and subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 defines a "significant regulatory action" as an action likely to result in a rule that may--

(1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more, or adversely affect a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities in a material way (also referred to as an "economically significant" rule);

(2) Create serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency;

(3) Materially alter the budgetary impacts of entitlement grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or

(4) Raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles stated in the Executive order.

This final regulatory action is not a significant regulatory action subject to review by OMB under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866.

We have also reviewed this final regulatory action under Executive Order 13563, which supplements and explicitly reaffirms the principles, structures, and definitions governing regulatory review established in Executive Order 12866. To the extent permitted by law, Executive Order 13563 requires that an agency--

(1) Propose or adopt regulations only upon a reasoned determination that their benefits justify their costs (recognizing that some benefits and costs are difficult to quantify);

(2) Tailor its regulations to impose the least burden on society, consistent with obtaining regulatory objectives and taking into account--among other things and to the extent practicable--the costs of cumulative regulations;

(3) In choosing among alternative regulatory approaches, select those approaches that maximize net benefits (including

potential economic, environmental, public health and safety, and other advantages; distributive impacts; and equity);

(4) To the extent feasible, specify performance objectives, rather than the behavior or manner of compliance a regulated entity must adopt; and

(5) Identify and assess available alternatives to direct regulation, including economic incentives--such as user fees or marketable permits--to encourage the desired behavior, or provide information that enables the public to make choices.

Executive Order 13563 also requires an agency "to use the best available techniques to quantify anticipated present and future benefits and costs as accurately as possible." The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB has emphasized that these techniques may include "identifying changing future compliance costs that might result from technological innovation or anticipated behavioral changes."

We are issuing this final priority only on a reasoned determination that its benefits justify its costs. In choosing among alternative regulatory approaches, we selected those approaches that maximize net benefits. Based on the analysis that follows, the Department believes that this regulatory action is consistent with the principles in Executive Order 13563.

We also have determined that this regulatory action does not unduly interfere with State, local, and tribal governments in the exercise of their governmental functions.



In accordance with both Executive orders, the Department has assessed the potential costs and benefits, both quantitative and qualitative, of this regulatory action. The potential costs are those resulting from statutory requirements and those we have determined as necessary for administering the Department's programs and activities.

The benefits of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program have been well established over the years, as projects similar to the one envisioned by the final priority have been completed successfully. Establishing a new DRRP based on the final priority would generate new knowledge through research and development and improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. The new DRRP would generate, disseminate, and promote the use of new information that would improve the options for individuals with disabilities to perform regular activities of their choice in the community.

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Dated:

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Michael K. Yudin,  
Delegated the authority  
to perform the functions  
and duties of the Assistant  
Secretary for Special  
Education and Rehabilitative Services.

**SECTION D**

**BACKGROUND STATEMENT**

## Background:

The World Wide Web (Web) has become a fundamental tool for employment, education, civic participation, entertainment, and purchase of goods and services. However, participation in such activities on the Web for people with disabilities lags behind that for the general population. For example, Web use often requires broadband access, but the National Broadband Plan states that only 42 percent of people with disabilities use broadband at home, compared to 65 percent of people nationwide (Federal Communications Commission, 2010).

One reason for this disparity is that the Web infrastructure is not set up to address disability access issues seamlessly across all of its functions (Global Public Inclusive Infrastructure, n.d.). Additionally, software and devices (e.g., computer, smart phone, tablet) used to access the Web are often inaccessible for people with disabilities, and individuals with disabilities have limited access to technical assistance with selecting, setting up, and using appropriate technologies. Furthermore, people with disabilities often are required to purchase separate accessibility software and assistive devices for each device they use to access the Web, which adds to the economic burden of Web use by people with disabilities (Lyle, 2010).

Cloud computing, a technology used to store, access, and process information on the Web, has the potential to enhance Web participation by people with disabilities by providing an

infrastructure that better supports accessibility for this population. International efforts are underway to develop a cloud-based infrastructure for the Web that includes options for disability access within its general structure--a change from the current, more inaccessible structure, where individuals with disabilities must set up their personal Web-enabled devices (e.g., smartphones) to meet their specific needs. The goal of this effort is to enable individuals with disabilities to log onto any Web-enabled device and have their user profiles and accessibility needs automatically recognized and appropriate tools activated, which would reduce the need for individuals to set up assistive technologies on each Web-enabled device they use. Three international projects addressing this need are described at Global Public Inclusive Infrastructure (n.d.), Cloud4all(n.d.), and Fluid (n.d.).

In order to support this effort, NIDRR has identified some (but not all) of the research questions that must be answered (see Table 1), together with possible computer science approaches to addressing them. Answering these and other relevant questions successfully will require collaboration between people with disabilities and experts in both disability and computer science fields relevant to cloud and Web accessibility and structure.

Table 1. Research Questions of Importance in Developing Accessible Cloud and Web Computing Infrastructure

<b>Research Questions</b>	<b>Possible Computer Science Approaches</b>
How to make content and interactions easier to understand for people with mental disabilities	Natural language processing
How to make it easier for people with disabilities to log on to the Web	Authentication technology
How to change the presentation of information on Web pages to respond to difficulties encountered by people with disabilities	Adaptive user interfaces
How to manage user profiles and accessibility options over time, as technology evolves	Federated information management
How to make software more easily modifiable to meet individual needs	Software architecture
How to improve the ability of software tools to identify accessibility problems in documents	Automated user interface testing
How to enable people with disabilities to share accessibility experiences and approaches	Social computing
How to incorporate specific accessibility features (e.g., closed captioning, volume control, video description, screen reader technology, accessible user interfaces) into an inclusive Web infrastructure	Software design
Sources: Jurafsky and Martin (2008); Cranor (2011); Jameson (2009); Haas et al. (2009); Fowler (2004); Li et al. (2007); Erickson (2011); Nielsen-Bohlman et al. (2004); Meiselwitz et al. (2009); Hurst et al. (2011); GPII (n.d.); Brajnik (2009); National Council on Disability (2011); Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2011, P.L. 111-260.	

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Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility  
Act of 2011, P.L. 111-260.

**SECTION E**

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF DRRPS**

## General Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Requirements

### Background:

NIDRR proposes the following General DRRP Requirements priority because it believes that the effectiveness of any DRRP (including any DBTAC) depends on, among other things, how well the DRRP coordinates its research efforts with the research of other NIDRR-funded projects, involves individuals with disabilities in its activities, and identifies specific anticipated outcomes that are linked to its objectives in applying for DRRP funding. Accordingly, NIDRR intends to use the General DRRP Requirements in conjunction with all of the other DRRP priorities NIDRR proposes.

### Priority:

To meet this priority, the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) must—

- (a) Coordinate on research projects of mutual interest with relevant NIDRR-funded projects, as identified through consultation with the NIDRR project officer;
- (b) Involve individuals with disabilities in planning and implementing the DRRP's research, training, and dissemination activities, and in evaluating its work; and
- (c) Identify anticipated outcomes (i.e., advances in knowledge or changes and improvements in policy, practice, behavior, and system capacity) that are linked to the applicant's stated grant objectives.

**SECTION F**

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

**(a) Responsiveness to an absolute or competitive priority (10 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the responsiveness of the application to an absolute or competitive priority published in the **Federal Register**.
- (2) In determining the application's responsiveness to the absolute or competitive priority, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
  - (i) The extent to which the applicant addresses all requirements of the absolute or competitive priority.
  - (ii) The extent to which the applicant's proposed activities are likely to achieve the purposes of the absolute or competitive priority.

**(b) Design of research activities (30 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the extent to which the design of research activities is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project.
- (2) In determining the extent to which the design is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
  - (i) The extent to which the research activities constitute a coherent, sustained approach to research in the field, including a substantial addition to the state-of-the-art.
  - (ii) The extent to which the methodology of each proposed research activity is meritorious, including consideration of the extent to which—
    - (A) The proposed design includes a comprehensive and informed review of the current literature, demonstrating knowledge of the state-of-the-art;
    - (B) The data collection and measurement techniques are appropriate and likely to be effective; and
    - (C) The data analysis methods are appropriate.

**(c) Design of development activities (20 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the extent to which the design of development activities is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project.
- (2)(i) In determining the extent to which the design is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
  - (ii) The extent to which the plan for development, clinical testing, and evaluation of new devices and technology is likely to yield significant products or techniques, including consideration of the extent to which—
    - (A) The proposed project will use the most effective and appropriate technology available in developing the new device or technique;
    - (B) The proposed development is based on a sound conceptual model that demonstrates an awareness of the state-of-the-art in technology;
    - (C) The new device or technique will be developed and tested in an appropriate environment;
    - (D) The new device or technique is likely to be cost-effective and useful;

**(d) Design of dissemination activities (5 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the extent to which the design of dissemination activities is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project.
- (2) In determining the extent to which the design is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
  - (i) The extent to which the content of the information to be disseminated—
    - (A) Covers all of the relevant aspects of the subject matter; and
    - (B) If appropriate, is based on new knowledge derived from research activities of the project.
  - (ii) The extent to which the materials to be disseminated are likely to be effective and usable, including consideration of their quality, clarity, variety, and format.
  - (iii) The extent to which the methods for dissemination are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration.
  - (iv) The extent to which the information to be disseminated will be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

**(e) Design of utilization activities (5 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the extent to which the design of utilization activities is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project.
- (2) In determining the extent to which the design is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
  - (i) The extent to which the potential new users of the information or technology have a practical use for the information and are likely to adopt the practices or use the information or technology, including new devices.

**(f) Design of technical assistance activities (5 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the extent to which the design of technical assistance activities is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project.
- (2) In determining the extent to which the design is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
  - (i) The extent to which the methods for providing technical assistance are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration.
  - (ii) The extent to which the information to be provided through technical assistance covers all of the relevant aspects of the subject matter.
  - (iii) The extent to which the technical assistance is appropriate to the target population, including consideration of the knowledge level of the target population, needs of the target population, and format for providing information.
  - (iv) The extent to which the technical assistance is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

**(g) Collaboration (5 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of collaboration.
- (2) In determining the quality of collaboration, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
  - (i) The extent to which the applicant's proposed collaboration with one or more agencies, organizations, or institutions is likely to be effective in achieving the relevant proposed activities of the project.
  - (ii) The extent to which agencies, organizations, or institutions demonstrate a commitment to collaborate with the applicant.
  - (iii) The extent to which agencies, organizations, or institutions that commit to collaborate with the applicant have the capacity to carry out collaborative activities.

**(h) Plan of operation. (5 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the plan of operation.
- (2) In determining the quality of the plan of operation, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
  - (i) The adequacy of the plan of operation to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, and timelines for accomplishing project tasks.
  - (ii) The adequacy of the plan of operation to provide for using resources, equipment, and personnel to achieve each objective.

**(i) Project staff (10 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the project staff.
- (2) In determining the quality of the project staff, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.
- (3) In addition, the Secretary considers one or more of the following:
  - (i) The extent to which the key personnel and other key staff have appropriate training and experience in disciplines required to conduct all proposed activities.
  - (ii) The extent to which the commitment of staff time is adequate to accomplish all the proposed activities of the project.
  - (iii) The extent to which the key personnel are knowledgeable about the methodology and literature of pertinent subject areas.
  - (iv) The extent to which the project staff includes outstanding scientists in the field.
  - (v) The extent to which key personnel have up-to-date knowledge from research or effective practice in the subject area covered in the priority.

**(i) Adequacy and accessibility of resources (5 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the adequacy and accessibility of the applicant's resources to implement the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the adequacy and accessibility of resources, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
  - (i) The extent to which the applicant is committed to provide adequate facilities, equipment, other resources, including administrative support, and laboratories, if appropriate.
  - (ii) The extent to which the facilities, equipment, and other resources are appropriately accessible to individuals with disabilities who may use the facilities, equipment, and other resources of the project.



**SECTION G**

**PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS**

## **Protection of Human Subjects**

Research activities involving human subjects supported by awards under these programs are subject to Department of Education Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects. You do **not** need an assurance or IRB approval as a condition of applying for this competition.

If you marked "Yes" for Item 3 of Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, you must provide a human subjects "exempt research" or "nonexempt research" narrative. Insert the narrative(s) in the space provided. If you have multiple projects and need to provide more than one narrative, please indicate which project each set of responses addresses.

**A. Exempt Research Narrative.** If you marked "Yes" for item 3 a. and designated exemption numbers(s), provide the "exempt research" narrative. The narrative must contain sufficient information about the involvement of human subjects in the proposed research to allow a determination by ED that the designated exemption(s) are appropriate. The narrative must be succinct. In addition, narratives are required for each participating partner if research is being conducted at other sites.

**B. Nonexempt Research Narrative.** If you marked "No" for item 3 a. you must provide the "nonexempt research" narrative. The narrative must address the seven points. Although no specific page limitation applies to this section of the application, be succinct.

Copies of the Department of Education regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects as well as other documents are available on the website below. For more information call (202) 260-3353 or go on-line the Protection of Human Subjects in research Web Site:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/humansub.html>

# **SECTION H**

## **APPLICATION FORMAT AND INSTRUCTIONS**

## **APPLICATION FORMAT AND INSTRUCTIONS**

Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (grants.gov) by the closing date unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement.

It is recommended that your electronic application (or paper application if you have requested and been approved for a waiver), be organized in the following manner and include the following:

**NOTE:** You will be uploading sections of your application by heading. There is a heading for: (1) Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424); (2) Table of Contents; (3) Abstract; (4) ED Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (ED-524); (5) Budget Narrative; (6) Project Narrative; (7) General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Requirements – Section 427; (8) GG Lobbying Form (90-0013); (9) ED Supplemental Form for SF 424; (10) SF LLL Disclosure of Lobbying; and (11) Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support. There is a file size limitation to each section and you may only upload one document under each heading. Therefore, in order to make sure that all of your materials are uploaded successfully, you will need to combine multiple original documents for a heading (e.g., letters, resumes) into a single document before uploading.

### **1. Application for Federal Assistance (Form SF 424)**

This form requires basic identifying information about the applicant and the application.

Applicants should note that there are multiple DRRPs open and use the **RELEVANT** CFDA and Title from the NFP/NIA.

### **2. Table of Contents**

The Table of Contents shows where and how the important sections of your proposal are organized.

While the application will be submitted electronically, the reviewers will use printed copies during the review process. The Table of Contents will assist them in more efficiently and effectively evaluating your application.

Upload the Table of Contents to Optional Forms: Other Attachments.

### **3. Abstract**

The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of what the whole (all years) project is, not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced.

Upload the Abstract to ED Abstract.

### **4. ED Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (ED-524)**

Remember that you must provide complete budget information for each year of the proposed project. Use the Budget Narrative heading to upload.

Please report Federal Funds in Section A – Budget Summary and Non-Federal Funds in Section B – Budget Summary.  
Specific instructions for completing the budget forms are provided within this application package.

Name: Enter the Name of the applicant organization(s) or institution(s) in the space provided.

Personnel (Line 1): Enter project personnel salaries and wages only. Include fees and expenses for consultants on line 6.

Fringe Benefits (Line 2): The institution's normal fringe benefits contribution may be charged to the program. Leave this line blank if fringe benefits applicable to direct salaries and wages are treated as part of the indirect cost.

Travel (Line 3): Indicate the travel costs of employees and participants only. Include travel of persons such as consultants and trainees on line 6.

Equipment (Line 4): Indicate the cost of tangible, non-expendable personal property that has usefulness greater than one year and acquisition costs that are the lesser of the capitalization level established by the applicant entity for financial statement purposes or \$5,000 per article. Lower limits may be established to maintain consistency with the applicant's policy.

Supplies (line 5): Show all tangible personal property except that on line 4.

Contractual (line 6): The contractual category should include all costs specifically incurred with actions that the applicant takes in conjunction with an established internal procurement system. Include consultant fees, expenses, and travel costs in this category if the consultant's services are obtained through a written binding agreement or contract.

Construction (line 7): Not applicable.

Other (line 8): Indicate all direct costs not covered on lines 1-6. For example, include costs such as space rental, required fees, honoraria and travel (where a contract is not in place for services), stipends, training, and communication and printing costs.

Total Direct Costs (line 9): The sum of lines 1-8.

Indirect Costs (line 10): There is no restricted indirect cost rate for this program. Use your institution's federally negotiated rate.

Training Stipends (line 11): There are three types of projects that might include budget requests for stipends, tuition allowance, or other types of similar charges to support the objectives of the project:

- ☐ Fellowship or Scholarship Programs

- ☐ Educational Training Projects
- ☐ Projects where students receive tuition remission or other forms of compensation, as, or in lieu of wages.

Total Cost (line 12): This should equal to sum of lines 9-11 (total direct costs + indirect + stipends). The sum for column one, labeled *Project Year 1* (a), should also be equal to item 18a on the application cover sheet (SF Form 424).

Cost Share: Please include this information on the ED Form 524, Section B – Budget Summary, Non-Federal Funds – Tab 2 and in your budget narrative.

## 5. **Budget Narrative**

This part requires an itemized budget breakdown for the project year and the basis for estimating the costs of personnel salaries, benefits, project staff travel, materials and supplies, consultants and subcontracts, indirect costs and any other projected expenditures.

Address Cost Share in a separate section of the budget narrative labeled “Cost Share.”

Please provide an itemized budget breakdown for each project year.

Upload the Budget Narrative to the Budget Narrative Section.

## 6. **Project Narrative**

The application narrative responds to the General Requirements for DRRP’s found in Section E and the Selection Criteria found in Section F of this application package. The reviewers will use this section to evaluate your application.

Upload the Project Narrative to the Project Narrative Section.

Each applicant is encouraged to limit the project narrative to the equivalent of no more than 100 pages, using the following standards:

- A “page” is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Double-space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.
- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).
- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New or Arial.
- Include all critical information in the program narrative, minimizing the need for additional appendices.
- Ensure that you attach **.PDF files only** for any attachments to your application. PDF files are the only Education approved file type accepted

as detailed in the Federal Register application notice. Applicants must submit individual .PDF files only when attaching files to their application. Specifically, the Department will not accept any attachments that contain files within a file, such as PDF Portfolio files. Any attachments uploaded that are not .PDF files or are password protected files will not be read. If you need assistance converting your files to a .pdf format, please refer to this Grants.gov webpage with links to conversion programs:

[http://www.grants.gov/help/download\\_software.jsp#pdf\\_conversion\\_programs](http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp#pdf_conversion_programs)

**NOTE:** The recommended page limit does not apply to the Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424), the budget narrative, the forms, the one page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, the recommended page limit does apply to all of the project narrative section.

**7. General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Requirements – Section 427**  
Section 427 requires each applicant for funds (other than an individual person) to include in its application a description of the steps the applicant proposes to take to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its federally-assisted program for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs.

**8. GG Lobbying Form (90-0013)**

Instructions for completing this form are included on the grants.gov website.

**9. ED Supplemental Form for SF 424**

Instructions for completing this form are included on the grants.gov website.

**10. SF LLL Disclosure of Lobbying**

Instructions for completing this form are included on the grants.gov website.

**11. Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support**

Vitae of staff or consultants should include the individual's title and role in the proposed project, and other information that is specifically pertinent to this proposed project.

If collaboration with another organization is involved in the proposed activity, the application should include assurances of participation by the other parties, including written agreements or assurances of cooperation.

Upload the Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support to the Other Attachments-Optional Section.

**SECTION I**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**DUNS NUMBER INSTRUCTIONS**



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## 1. CAN I GET AN EXTENSION OF THE DUE DATE?

In the case of most competitions the answer is no. On rare occasions the Department of Education may extend a closing date for all applicants. If that occurs, a notice of the revised due date is published in the Federal Register; this extension will identify who is eligible to apply for a given competition. There are no extensions or exceptions to the due date made for individual applicants. Additionally, there are provisions for extension for Grants.gov, per the guidance included in the application package.

## 2. WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION?

The application should include the following: (1) Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424); (2) Table of Contents; (3) Abstract; (4) ED Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (ED-524); (5) Budget Narrative; (6) Project Narrative; (7) General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Requirements – Section 427; (8) GG Lobbying Form (90-0013); (9) ED Supplemental Form for SF 424; (10) SF LLL Disclosure of Lobbying; and (11) Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support. The budgets for all years, including a detailed budget narrative, should be included. If collaboration with another organization or individual is involved in any proposed activity, the application should include assurances of participation by the other parties, including written agreements or letters of cooperation. It is not useful to include general letters of support or endorsement in the application. If the applicant proposes to use unique tests or other measurement instruments that are not widely known in the field, it would be helpful to include the instrument in the application. Many applications contain voluminous appendices that are not helpful and in many cases cannot even be mailed to the reviewers. It is generally not helpful to include such things as brochures, general capability statements of collaborating organizations, maps, copies of publications, or descriptions of other projects completed by the applicant.

## 3. WHAT FORMAT SHOULD BE USED FOR THE APPLICATION?

NIDRR generally advises applicants to organize the project narrative to follow the selection criteria. The specific review criteria vary according to the specific programs and are included in this application package. Additionally, applicants should provide clearly stated hypotheses or research questions, goals, objectives, expected outcomes, and public benefit of the research or development project. The application should be organized to provide a thorough description of the methods and target population(s) and supported by evidence of need for the project, as identified in the relevant literature; citations are useful and may strengthen the proposal. Specific information on the format can be found in Section H – Application Format and Instructions of this application package.

## 4. ARE THERE PAGE LIMITS TO MY APPLICATION?

The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you limit the application narrative to the equivalent of no more than 125 pages, using the following

standards: (1) A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides; (2) Double-space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs; (3) Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch); (4) Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New or Arial; and (5) Include all critical information in the program narrative, minimizing the need for additional appendices.

5. MAY I SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO MORE THAN ONE OPEN NIDRR PROGRAM COMPETITION AT A TIME OR MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION TO A PARTICULAR PROGRAM COMPETITION?

Yes. You may submit more than one application in any given competition. You may submit to as many open competitions for which an application is responsive to the program requirements. However, each competition is unique and the selection criteria will vary from one competition to another. It is important that each separate application include the required materials for that particular competition.

6. DO I NEED AN ABSTRACT AND WHAT SHOULD IT INCLUDE?

Yes, you do need an abstract. The abstract is used by both the peer reviewers and the program staff in the review and processing of the application. The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of the project (all years), not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced. Upload to ED Abstract.

7. WHAT IS THE ALLOWABLE INDIRECT COST RATE?

For the Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (133A) applicants must have a current indirect cost rate agreement to charge indirect costs to a grant. The maximum amount of the award includes both direct and indirect costs (ED Budget Information non-Construction programs (ED-524). The Department's Indirect Cost Group has more information on what you should know about indirect cost rates at its Web site: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/fipao/abouticg.html>

8. CAN PROFIT MAKING BUSINESSES APPLY FOR GRANTS?

Yes; however, for-profit organizations will not be able to collect a fee or profit on the grant.

9. CAN INDIVIDUALS APPLY FOR GRANTS?

Individuals are not eligible to apply for the Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP).

10. CAN NIDRR STAFF ADVISE ME WHETHER MY PROJECT IS OF INTEREST TO NIDRR OR LIKELY TO BE FUNDED?

No. NIDRR staff can only advise you of the requirements of the program in which you propose to submit your application. However, staff cannot advise you as to whether or not your subject area or proposed approach is likely to receive approval.

11. HOW DO I ENSURE THAT MY APPLICATION WILL BE REVIEWED UNDER THE CORRECT COMPETITION?

Applicants must clearly include the competition title and CFDA number, on the Standard Form 424, and include a project title that describes the project, based on the competition.

12. HOW SOON AFTER SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION CAN I FIND OUT IF IT WILL BE FUNDED?

The time from closing date to grant award date varies from program to program. Generally speaking, NIDRR makes awards within six to seven months after the closing date. Unsuccessful applicants generally will be notified within that time frame as well. When NIDRR is able to release information on the status of grant applications, it will notify applicants by letter. This information is **not** posted on the NIDRR homepage or the Grants.gov website.

13. WHAT START DATE SHOULD I USE ON MY APPLICATION?

For the purpose of estimating a project start date, the applicant should estimate approximately six to seven months from the closing date, preferably October 1. You must have a start date that allows you to complete an Annual Performance Report (APR) by May 31<sup>st</sup> with a minimum of six month of activities to report on.

14. IF MY APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, CAN I ASSUME I WILL GET THE REQUESTED BUDGET AMOUNT IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS?

No. Funding in subsequent years is subject to availability of funds and project performance.

15. WILL ALL APPROVED APPLICATIONS BE FUNDED?

No. Peer review can result in more applications being determined to be worthy of consideration for funding than available resources allow. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to consider resubmitting applications in future competitions. Funded applications will be notified in the manner described in #12.

16. HOW DO THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS IMPACT ON MY APPLICATION?

Successful applicants with multi-year grants must submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) demonstrating and documenting their progress in meeting approved project objectives and their success in addressing the performance measures outlined in the Notice Inviting Applications. Grantees must also provide the most current financial and performance measure data for each year of the project. Grantees will also be required to submit a final performance report, 90 days after the end of the project period. The APR is submitted electronically via a web-based system. This system is

maintained by a contractor. Grantees are provided an appropriate URL and personal password to access the system. The contractor will also send newly funded grantees information about when and how to submit their APR. The Department uses the applicant's performance data for program management and administration, in such areas as determining new and continuation funding and planning technical assistance. Grantees are required to participate fully in any evaluation of the NIDRR program carried out by the Department of Education.

17. DO I HAVE TO INCLUDE COST SHARE IN MY APPLICATION?

NIDRR has cost share requirements for the Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (133A) in accordance with statutory (29 USC 762), regulatory (34 CFR Section 350.52), and administrative requirements. This information should be reflected on the SF 424 #18. (B), the ED 524 form - Section B (Budget Summary Non-Federal Funds), and in the budget narrative for each year. A minimum amount of up to 1% of the total yearly budget amount is required; however, you may include more than 1%. If the cost share amount is changed for a competition, it will be announced in the Notice Inviting Applications. For more information, see EDGAR 74.23 and 84.24.

18. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO ABOUT HUMAN SUBJECTS PROTECTION IN MY RESEARCH?

If you are planning research involving human subjects at any time during the project period, you check "Yes" in the Human Subjects section of the ED supplement to the SF 424 form. If you checked "Yes," you need to indicate whether the research is exempt or not exempt from the protection of human subjects requirements of EDGAR part 97 and if you have an IRB number. You will need to fill out the human subjects narrative for each site where the research is being conducted. The program and the Department's human subjects staff review the applicant's response against the application itself to determine its accuracy. They contact you for additional information or clarification, if needed. More information can be found in the instructions for the SF 424 form and in this application package in the Human Subjects section.

19. MUST I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION VIA GRANTS.GOV?

Applications for grants for this competition must be submitted electronically using the Governmentwide Grants.gov Apply site at [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov). Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us. **We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions.**

20. HOW WILL I RECEIVE FUNDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL YEARS OF MY GRANT (CONTINUATION AWARD)?

In making a continuation award, the Secretary may consider under 34 CFR 75.253, the extent to which a grantee has made "substantial progress toward meeting the objectives in its approved application." This consideration includes the review of a grantee's

progress in meeting the targets and projected outcomes in its approved application, and whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget. In making a continuation grant, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23)

# DUNS NUMBER INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE: Check with your fiscal office to see if your institution has an assigned DUNS before contacting Dun & Bradstreet

**D-U-N-S No.:** Please provide the applicant's D-U-N-S Number. You can obtain your D-U-N-S Number at no charge by calling **1-800-234-3867** or by completing a D-U-N-S Number Request Form. The form can be obtained via the Internet at the following URL:

[http://www.dnb.com/US/duns\\_update/index.html](http://www.dnb.com/US/duns_update/index.html)

The D-U-N-S Number is a unique nine-digit number that does not convey any information about the recipient. A built in check digit helps assure the accuracy of the D-U-N-S Number. The ninth digit of each number is the check digit, which is mathematically related to the other digits. It lets computer systems determine if a D-U-N-S Number has been entered correctly.

Dun & Bradstreet, a global information services provider, has assigned D-U-N-S numbers to over 43 million companies worldwide. **Live help Monday-Friday 8am-6pm (EST) Dial 1.800.234.3867**

Note: Electronic submission via Grants.gov must use DUNS number your organization used when it registered in the Central Contractor Registry.

## **SECTION J**

### **GRANTS.GOV SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND TIPS FOR APPLICANTS**

#### **APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS**

## IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ FIRST

U.S. Department of Education

### **Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants**

To facilitate your use of Grants.gov, this document includes important submission procedures you need to be aware of to ensure your application is received in a timely manner and accepted by the Department of Education.

#### **ATTENTION – Adobe Forms and PDF Files Required**

Applications submitted to Grants.gov for the Department of Education must be posted using Adobe forms. Therefore, applicants will need to download a newer version of Adobe reader (Grants.gov recommends Adobe Reader 10.1.4). Information on computer and operating system compatibility with Adobe, links to download a newer version, and warnings about using Adobe Reader XI are all available on Grants.gov. We strongly recommend that you review these details on [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) before completing and submitting your application. In addition, applicants should submit their application a day or two in advance of the closing date as detailed below. Also, applicants are required to upload their attachments in .pdf format only. (See details below under “Attaching Files – Additional Tips.”).

Please be aware that **Grants.gov has discovered an issue with the newest version of Adobe Reader XI.**

Applicants may encounter the following error that will prevent them from submitting their application:

*"At least one required Field was empty. Please fill in the required field (highlighted) before continuing."*

Grants.gov recommends that if applicants encounter this issue, they submit their application using any version below Adobe Reader XI. Please refer to the [compatibility table](#) for additional information about supported versions of Adobe Reader. If you have any questions regarding this matter please email the Grants.gov Contact Center at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov) or call 1-800-518-4726.

- 1) **REGISTER EARLY** – Grants.gov registration may take five or more business days to complete. You may begin working on your application while completing the registration process, but you cannot submit an application until all of the Registration steps are complete. For detailed information on the Registration Steps, please go to: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp) [Note: Your organization will need to update its SAM registration annually (formerly Central Contractor Registry (CCR)\*).]
- 2) **SUBMIT EARLY** – We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the last day to submit your application. Grants.gov will put a date/time stamp on your application and then process it after it is fully uploaded. The time it



takes to upload an application will vary depending on a number of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection, and the time it takes Grants.gov to process the application will vary as well. If Grants.gov rejects your application (see step three below), you will need to resubmit successfully to Grants.gov before 4:30:00 p.m. Washington, DC time on the deadline date.

**Note: To submit successfully, you must provide the DUNS number on your application that was used when you registered as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) on Grants.gov. This DUNS number is typically the same number used when your organization registered with the SAM (formerly CCR -Central Contractor Registry). If you do not enter the same DUNS number on your application as the DUNS you registered with, Grants.gov will reject your application.**

- 3) **VERIFY SUBMISSION IS OK** – You will want to verify that Grants.gov received your application submission on time and that it was validated successfully. To see the date/time your application was received, login to Grants.gov and click on the Track My Application link. For a successful submission, the date/time received should be earlier than 4:30:00 p.m. Washington, DC time, on the deadline date, AND the application status should be: Validated, Received by Agency, or Agency Tracking Number Assigned. Once the Department of Education receives your application from Grants.gov, an Agency Tracking Number (PR/award number) will be assigned to your application and will be available for viewing on Grants.gov's Track My Application link.

If the date/time received is later than 4:30:00 p.m. Washington, D.C. time, on the deadline date, your application is late. If your application has a status of "Received" it is still awaiting validation by Grants.gov. Once validation is complete, the status will either change to "Validated" or "Rejected with Errors." If the status is "Rejected with Errors," your application has not been received successfully. Some of the reasons Grants.gov may reject an application can be found on the Grants.gov site:

[http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant\\_faq.jsp#54](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant_faq.jsp#54). For more detailed information on troubleshooting Adobe errors, you can review the Adobe Reader Error Messages document at

<http://www.grants.gov/assets/AdobeReaderErrorMessage.pdf>. If you discover your application is late or has been rejected, please see the instructions below. Note: You will receive a series of confirmations both online and via e-mail about the status of your application. Please do not rely solely on e-mail to confirm whether your application has been received timely and validated successfully.

### **Submission Problems – What should you do?**

If you have problems submitting to Grants.gov before the closing date, please contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or

<http://www.grants.gov/contactus/contactus.jsp>, or access the Grants.gov Self-Service web portal at: <https://grants-portal.psc.gov/Welcome.aspx?pt=Grants>

If electronic submission is optional and you have problems that you are unable to resolve before the deadline date and time for electronic applications, please follow the

transmittal instructions for hard copy applications in the Federal Register notice and get a hard copy application postmarked by midnight on the deadline date.

If electronic submission is required, you must submit an electronic application before 4:30:00 p.m., unless you follow the procedures in the Federal Register notice and qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. (See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)

### **Helpful Hints When Working with Grants.gov**

Please note, once you download an application from Grants.gov, you will be working offline and saving data on your computer. Please be sure to note where you are saving the Grants.gov file on your computer. You will need to logon to Grants.gov to upload and submit the application. **You must provide the DUNS number on your application that was used when you registered as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) on Grants.gov.**

Please go to <http://www.grants.gov/contactus/contactus.jsp> for help with Grants.gov. For additional tips related to submitting grant applications, please refer to the Grants.gov Submit Application FAQs found on the Grants.gov [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/submit\\_application\\_faqs.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/submit_application_faqs.jsp).

### **Dial-Up Internet Connections**

When using a dial up connection to upload and submit your application, it can take significantly longer than when you are connected to the Internet with a high-speed connection, e.g. cable modem/DSL/T1. While times will vary depending upon the size of your application, it can take a few minutes to a few hours to complete your grant submission using a dial up connection. **If you do not have access to a high-speed connection and electronic submission is required, you may want to consider following the instructions in the Federal Register notice to obtain an exception to the electronic submission requirement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.** (See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)

### **MAC Users**

For MAC compatibility information, review the Operating System Platform Compatibility Table at the following Grants.gov link:

[http://www.grants.gov/help/download\\_software.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp). **If electronic submission is required and you are concerned about your ability to submit electronically as a non-windows user, please follow instructions in the Federal Register notice to obtain an exception to the electronic submission requirement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.** (See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)

### **Attaching Files – Additional Tips**

Please note the following tips related to attaching files to your application, especially the requirement that applicants **only include read-only, non-modifiable .PDF files** in their application:

1. Ensure that you attach **.PDF files only** for any attachments to your application, and they must be in a **read-only, non-modifiable format**. PDF files are the only Education approved file type accepted as detailed in the Federal Register application notice. Applicants must submit individual .PDF files only when attaching files to their application. Specifically, the Department will not accept any attachments that contain files within a file, such as PDF Portfolio files, or an interactive or fillable .PDF file. Any attachments uploaded that are not .PDF files or are password protected files will not be read. If you need assistance converting your files to a .pdf format, please refer to the following Grants.gov webpage with links to conversion programs under the heading of additional resources:  
[http://www.grants.gov/applicants/app\\_help\\_reso.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/app_help_reso.jsp)
2. Grants.gov cannot process an application that includes two or more files that have the same name within a grant submission. Therefore, each file uploaded to your application package should have a unique file name.
3. When attaching files, applicants should follow the guidelines established by Grants.gov on the size and content of file names. Uploaded files must be less than 50 characters, contain no spaces, no special characters (example: -, &, \*, %, /, #, \) including periods (.), blank spaces and accent marks. Applications submitted that do not comply with the Grants.gov guidelines will be rejected at Grants.gov and not forwarded to the Department.
4. Applicants should limit the size of their file attachments. Documents submitted that contain graphics and/or scanned material often greatly increase the size of the file attachments and can result in difficulties opening the files. For reference, the average discretionary grant application package totals 1 to 2 MB. Therefore, you may want to check the total size of your package before submission.

\*Please note that the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) was replaced by the System for Award Management (SAM) effective July 30, 2012. For more information on the migration of CCR data to SAM, grant applicants should read this information located on Grants.gov:

<http://grants-gov.blogspot.com/2012/07/information-about-pending-migration.html#/2012/07/information-about-pending-migration.html>

## **APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAIL OR HAND DELIVERY IF A WAIVER HAS BEEN OBTAINED**

### Submission of Paper Applications by Mail:

If you submit your application in paper format by mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier), you must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

### By mail through the U.S. Postal Service:

U.S. Department of Education  
Application Control Center  
Attention: CFDA number 84.133A-1  
LBJ Basement Level 1  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20202-4260

Regardless of which address you use, you must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark.
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

### c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the

original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education  
Application Control Center  
Attention: CFDA Number 84.133A-1  
550 12th Street, SW.  
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza  
Washington, DC 20202-4260

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

**Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications:** If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--

(1) You must indicate on the envelope and--if not provided by the Department--in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and

(2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

**SECTION K**  
**REQUIRED FORMS**  
**And**  
**FORM INSTRUCTIONS**

## APPLICATION FORMS

All electronic and paper (if a waiver has been submitted and approved) applications submitted to NIDRR must include the following forms/parts:

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424)
- Table of Contents
- Abstract
- ED Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (ED-524)
- Budget Narrative
- Project Narrative
- General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Requirements – Section 427
- GG Lobbying Form (90-0013)
- ED Supplemental Form for SF 424
- SF LLL Disclosure of Lobbying
- Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support

A separate application must be submitted for each grant sought. No grant may be awarded unless the completed application forms have been received. All above forms are mandatory and must be submitted with the application. **If an item does not appear to be relevant, write "NA" for not applicable.**

Instructions for each form are provided on the Grants.gov website.

**SECTION L**

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**



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## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

☐ Did you complete the registration process for Grants.gov for the mandatory electronic submission on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)?

Does your application include each of the following?

☐ Cover page (SF 424) marked appropriately with **84.133A-1**. Download of correct package for **84.133A-1** applying electronically

☐ Priority Topic identified in the Descriptive Title in Block 12 of the SF 424

☐ Budget form (ED form 524) with dollar amounts not exceeding the maximum in any year

☐ Required Cost Share included on side “B” of the ED 524 and explained in the budget narrative for each year

☐ Budget narrative for each year with arithmetic checked for accuracy

☐ Program narrative, including abstract and responses to the selection criteria

☐ Assurances and Certifications (from the forms list in section K)

☐ Correctly uploaded files on Grants.gov

☐ Narrative on the Protection of Human Subjects

Did you do each of the following?

☐ Submit application on or before July 8, 2013.

☐ Fully complete the upload of your application and receive successful validation of the submission before 4:30:00 pm, Washington, D.C. time on the closing date.

☐ Provide the required 1 original and 2 copies of the application if submitting by post, hand-delivery, or carrier service. (If possible, please also send 9 additional paper copies and a disk copy.)

## **PAPERWORK BURDEN STATEMENT**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 200 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is voluntary. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20210-4537 or email [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) and reference the OMB Control Number 1820-0027. Note: Please do not return the completed application to this address.